

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 10, 2003. Claims 1 to 12, 19 to 25 and 29 to 35 are pending in the application, with Claims 13 to 18 and 26 to 28 having been canceled, and Claims 32 to 35 having been added. Claims 1, 9, 12, 19, 29, 32 and 34 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,366,913 (Fitler). Although the claims have been amended, the amendments are merely to provide even better clarity of the subject matter and therefore, the rejections are traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The present invention concerns providing notification of changes made in a directory server. According to the invention, a plurality of groups/multicast groups are established for a respective plurality of change categories of changes that can be made in a directory server. Users that want to receive change information register with one or more of the plurality of groups/multicast groups. When a change is made in the directory server, change information is sent/submitted for multicasting to at least one member which belongs to the group corresponding to the change category of the change made in the directory server. For example, one group/multicast group may be for add changes so that when an add operation (such as adding an entry to a directory in the directory server) is performed, members of the add group will be notified of the change. As a result, changes made in a directory server can be monitored simply by a user registering as a member of a group corresponding to the type of change that they want to receive information on. When

a change is made, members of the group are automatically notified of the change by, for example, the directory server multicasting change information.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a method for multicasting changes made in a directory server, comprising the steps of establishing plural multicast groups corresponding to a respective plurality of change categories, wherein each multicast group comprises at least one member, and submitting change information for multicasting responsive to a change being made in the directory server, the change information being submitted to the at least one member which belongs to a selected one of the plural multicast groups corresponding to the change category of the change made in the directory server.

Newly-added independent Claim 32 is along the lines of Claim 1, but is more generic by not calling for the change information to be multicast. More specifically, Claim 32 is a method for providing notification of changes made in a directory server, comprising the steps of establishing plural groups corresponding to a respective plurality of change categories that can be made in the directory server, wherein each group comprises at least one member, and sending change information to the at least one member which belongs to a selected one of the plural groups corresponding to the change category of a change made in the directory server.

Newly-added independent Claim 34 is a computer-executable process steps claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 32.

Amended independent Claims 9 is directed to the user side for receiving the change information and more specifically is a method for obtaining directory server change information, comprising the steps of registering as a member of at least one of a plurality of

multicast groups, each of the plurality of multicast groups corresponding to a respective plurality of change categories, and receiving a multicast transmission from a directory server, the multicast transmission containing change information submitted to at least one member which belongs to the multicast group corresponding to the change category of a change made in the directory server.

Amended independent Claim 29 is a computer-executable process steps claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 9.

Amended independent Claim 12 is directed to the directory server and specifically is an apparatus for multicasting changes made in a directory server wherein plural multicast groups for corresponding to a respective plurality of change categories are established, comprising a processor for executing executable process steps, and a memory medium storing executable process steps, wherein the executable process steps comprise (a) generating change information responsive to a change being made in the directory server, and (b) submitting the change information to at least one member which belongs to a selected one of the plural multicast groups corresponding to the change category of the change made in the directory server.

Amended independent Claim 19 is a computer-executable process steps claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 12.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 9, 12, 19, 29, 32 and 34. More particularly, with regard to Claim 1, 12 and 19, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of submitting change information for multicasting responsive to a change being made in a directory server, the change information being submitted to at least one member which belongs to a selected one of

plural multicast groups corresponding to a change category of the change made in the directory server. Along the same lines, with regard to Claims 32 and 34, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of sending change information to the at least one member which belongs to a selected one of the plural groups corresponding to the change category of a change made in the directory server. Similarly, with regard to Claims 9 and 29, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of receiving a multicast transmission from a directory server, the multicast transmission containing change information submitted to at least one member which belongs to a multicast group corresponding to a change category of a change made in the directory server.

Fitler is merely seen to disclose that different groups are established to receive multicast messages, where the groups are based on such items as location, department, etc. Messages can then be multicast to the group members of a group using multicast, where members that are included in a directory server are looked-up to determine who is to receive the message. However, Applicant fails to see where the multicast groups in Fitler correspond to change categories of changes made in a directory server. Rather, the multicast groups merely appear to be based on membership for a particular location, department, etc., but have nothing whatsoever to do with different types of change categories for changes that can be made in a directory server. Moreover, there is nothing in Fitler that discloses or suggests that when a change is made in the directory, change information is sent to members of a group corresponding to the type of change made. In fact, it appears that if a change is made to the directory in Fitler, such as adding or deleting a new member of a group, there is no multicast or other transmission at all to members of a group regarding the change, much less multicasting/sending change information to

members of a group corresponding to the type of change that is made in the directory.

Therefore, Fitler fails to anticipate the presently claimed invention of Claims 1, 9, 12, 19, 29, 32 and 34.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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